From: qzondervan@cambridgema.gov
To: Phyllis Bretholtz
Cc: Totten, Daniel
Subject: Re: Please cancel all contracts with Hewlett Packard
Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 6:49:18 PM

Thanks Phyllis! Best,

Q

Quinton Zondervan
Cambridge City Councillor
617-901-2006

On Apr 18, 2018, at 4:02 PM, Phyllis Bretholtz <pbretholtz@gmail.com> wrote:

In Support of Canceling ALL Hewlett Packard Contracts:

I am writing as a Cambridge resident, a founding member of the Cambridge Bethlehem People to People Project and a Jew requesting Cambridge to cancel its Hewlett Packard contracts.

We in Cambridge have a long standing tradition of standing up for what is right. We are the city that started the original boycott of Polaroid Corporation because of their direct involvement in apartheid practices in South Africa. So, it is in the spirit of this long standing tradition that I support a boycott against Hewlett Packard because of their involvement in what clearly amounts to apartheid style practices in Palestine. The surveillance tools and identity cards used to maintain Israeli occupation of Palestinians are created by Hewlett Packard. It is long over-due time for the City of Cambridge to cancel all contracts with HP.

In the fall of 2007, I was a member of a delegation of fifteen Cantabridgians on a mission to Palestine in response to a specific request from a Palestinian civil rights lawyer to tour the West Bank/Palestine. He had spent time in Cambridge and was very familiar with the ways the American press tells the story of what is happening in Israel/Palestine, almost exclusively from an Israeli perspective. He invited us to see for ourselves what life is like for most Palestinians, and then to bring their stories back to the United States. We spent almost two weeks touring, talking, experiencing life in Bethlehem and the wider West Bank. Most importantly, we spent time observing life and listening to Palestinians as they told their stories. The result was our commitment to remain in touch with a group of Palestinian individuals by creating the Cambridge Bethlehem People to People Project, through which we actively support a number of projects in Palestine.

During our visit in 2007, as a Jew, I was horrified at the daily inhuman indignities experienced by Palestinians who had to carry identity cards created by Hewlett Packard. These cards restrict where Palestinians can work, go to school, access their land, restrict license plates so they can only travel on inferior roads, suffer the indignities of cattle-like passages through which they must pass daily to move around, and the creation of a huge wall built across their land, often within a few feet of their windows, school play grounds, home balconies. I grew up with an image of the the State of Israel as a place where many people who had survived the Holocaust would understand the need to treat everyone with dignity and respect, not to mention equal human rights. Where a true democracy would be created, giving full citizenship to everyone.

Sadly, that is not the case. As a Jew, it breaks my heart to observe personally the daily inhumanities suffered by Palestinians as a direct result of Israeli occupation. Knowing that Hewlett Packard plays such a strong role in this occupation, I strongly request that the City of Cambridge cancel its contracts with Hewlett Packard. It is a matter of social justice.

Phyllis Bretholtz
65 Antrim Street
Cambridge 02139

April 18, 2018